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Canal*

region traditionally filled by an in-the-canal (ITC) or completely in-the-canal (CIC) device, as well as extending significantly into the peritympanic region, is improbable at best without a device that will allow deep penetration into the ear canal by the hearing instrument. Current "one-size-fits-all" hearing instruments are either of the in-the-ear (ITE) or ITC or CIC variety. Some have the ability to accommodate the first bend in the ear canal. However, conventional hearing instruments fail to adequately and simultaneously accommodate the first and second bends of a typical ear canal and are generally not capable of comfortably extending significantly into the peritympanic region.

Amendments to the specification are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - ii).

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#### In the Claims

Please amend Claim 11. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - ii).

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11. (Amended) A method of making a model of a hearing aid housing which is adapted to be inserted into either a right side or a left side of an ear canal adjacent to a tympanic membrane of a typical user comprising the steps of:

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- a) obtaining sample ear impressions from a plurality of subjects;
- b) generating three-dimensional topological data corresponding to each surface of the samples;
- c) generating volume data representing volumes corresponding to the 3D geometry of the topological data obtained from each sample;
- processing the volume data of each sample to generate a first single set of data which represents the intersection of all the volumes;
- e) using the first set of data to generate a second set of data representing a mirror image of the first set of data;
- f) using the first and second sets of data to generate a third set of data representing a third volume resulting from the intersection of the two sets of data; and